

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

September 25, 2014

San Francisco City Hall, Room 416

2:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Eric McDonnell, Chair

Recreation and Park Commissioner Maggie Wei

Recreation and Park Commissioner Mark Buell

San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Wayne Reading

San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Gail Secchia

San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Elena Asturias

Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

2. Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

ACTION: MSA

Adoption of Minutes of the August 28, 2014 Committee Meeting.

3. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Joe Fitting, VP of Education and Conservation, SFZS.

Mr. Fitting reported attendance for the first fifteen days of September is 36,048 versus budget of 33,600 and over budget by 2,448 visitors. Actual year-to-date attendance through September 15 is 253,567 and is over budget by 10.9%.

On September 23rd the Zoo hosted an official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Koret-Taube South American Rainforest and Aviary. The renovated aviary will feature a realistic rainforest ecosystem, full of colorful free-flight birds, exotic plants and trees, a charming two-toed sloth, and the Zoo's first significant herpetological collection. The new exhibit will highlight environmental threats facing rainforests, as well as the devastating effects of the illegal pet trade on South American wildlife.

San Francisco Zoo VP of Animal Wellness and Behavior, Dr. Jason Watters and Stanford University School of Medicine Dr. Joseph Garner completed teaching a class to 12 Stanford sophomores at the Zoo's new Wellness and Conservation Center and throughout Zoo grounds. The two-week class immersed the students in the lives of three animals: lions, giraffe and kinkajou. The student's challenge was to develop and create enrichment for each animal abased on research, data, curator feedback, and animal needs.

On September 12th, Education staff members represented the Zoo at Salesforce.com Back to school event. The event celebrated Salesforce's donation of \$5million dollars to the San Francisco Unified School District and their commitment to provide 5,000 volunteer hours to local schools. The Zoo was one of 12 local organizations that will help provide volunteer opportunities to Salesforce.com staff. This two-day program involves Salesforce.com staff and an iPad app called "Observe to Learn"; together with a field trip to the Zoo, they teach middle school students about ethology, or the study of animal behaviors. Another educational experience was held earlier this month when the Zoo's Wild Nights program partnered with Outward Bound California. Outward Bound leads urban explorations for middle school students from underserved areas and schools. They camp along their way throughout the Bay Area. The Zoo offers the youth and adult leaders a unique opportunity to be in the Zoo after hours, learn about endangered species, and gain respect for nature. This year SFZ ran three consecutive overnights hosting a total of 29 youth and 9 adult leaders.

Events: SFZ celebrated grandparents everywhere by offering free admission to grandparent who came to the Zoo with grandkids on Sunday, September 7th. On September 20th International Red Panda day was celebrated with special Keeper Talks and red panda enrichment, a visit from the Red Panda Network, a Lucky Chance Raffle, an Adopt A Red Panda table, an educational bio-fact cart and an opportunity for all to donate “Change for Pandas” with over \$400 being raised. On September 21st & 22nd, as the only AZA Zoo in Northern California to house rhinos, SFZ was honored to take charge with other organizations globally to raise awareness for the conservation of this amazing animals to celebrate World Rhino Day. There were two days of special activities related to rhinos, including special Keeper talks and extra enrichment for Asian rhino, Gauhati and the two eastern black rhinos, Elly and Boone. At the Lion Fountain, craft tables, live music, rhino face-painting, rhino-themed snacks and other fun treats, and opportunities to support rhino conservation with and Adopt-A-Rhino package. A free conservation lecture with a special focus on Fighting the Illicit Animal Trade was also offered visitors. Upcoming Events: To celebrate a very successful breeding season for SFZ flock of Chilean flamingos and to welcome the white, fluffy chicks, visitors who wear pink to the Zoo on September 27th and 28th will receive \$1 off admission. The next special event, Nature Connects will open to the public on October 10th. This exhibit features nature-themed giant Lego sculptures of artist Sean Kenney, coupled with large-format photography of SFZ’s very special plants, trees and gardens.

Moony Bartholomew Finch, the Zoo’s two-toed sloth is proving to be Cupid in disguise. Recently, Tyler and Tory, two young people who love both wildlife and each other, became engaged under the watchful eyes of the sloth. Tyler had already participated in the Zoo’s Adopt-An-Animal program and wanted Moony’s participation as he went down on bended knee and asked Tory to marry him. Tory said yes to which the sloth responded by making an uncharacteristic complete tour around his exhibit to display both his approval and remarkable agility.

4. **Animal Transactions.** (Action Item) **ACTION: MSA**
David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS
Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Recreation and Park Commission approve the following transactions:

SAN FRANCISCO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS
ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION – September 2014

DONATION FROM:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Dallas Zoo 650 South R.L. Thornton Fwy Dallas, TX 75203	0.1 Andean tinamou <u>Nothoprocta pentlandii</u>	NIL	N/A
Chehaw Park Authority 105 Chehaw Park Road Albany, GA 31701	2.0 crowned lemur <u>Eulemur coronatus</u>	NIL	N/A
PURCHASE FROM:			
San Diego Zoo Safari Park 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road Escondido, CA 92027	0.2 Elegant crested tinamou <u>Eudromia elegans</u>	\$75 each	\$150

5. Animal Updates. (Discussion)
David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – AUGUST 2014					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
14	0.2	Red-rumped agouti	Donation	Buffalo Zoo	
26	2.0	Reticulated giraffe	Birth		
27	0.0.6	Lemur leaf frog	Donation	Como Zoo	
30	0.0.1	Chilean flamingo	Birth		
DISPOSITION					
				Age at Death	
5	0.1	Siamang	Donation		Louisville Zoo
11	0.1	American bison	Death	23Y, 2M, 21D	Torn biceps tendons
12	0.1	Blue-winged teal	Death	8Y, 1M, 0D	Abdominal hemorrhage
12	0.1	Magellanic penguin	Loan transfer		Blank Park Zoo
18	0.0.41	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	Loan transfer		Oakland Zoo
26	0.0.1	Japanese fire-bellied newt	Death		Spinal arthritis
27	0.0.1	Red-eyed tree frog	Death	0Y, 7M, 26D	Pneumonia, sepsis
27	1.0	Blackbuck	Death	15Y, 1M, 5D	Kidney failure, adrenal cancer
28	1.0	Reticulated giraffe	Death	0Y, 0M, 2D	Sepsis, dislocated hip

6. San Francisco Zoo Veterinary Report

Dr. Graham Crawford, Chief of Veterinary Services, SFZS (Information only)
Dr. Crawford presented an overview of the veterinary services offered by SFZ. Over 200 species of animals are treated by the veterinary staff consisting of 2 fulltime & 6 part time veterinarians, 3 fulltime and 2 part time registered veterinary technicians and 1 administrative assistant. SFZ also uses the assistance of approximately 20 consulting veterinary and human physicians as needed. The 8000' square foot veterinary hospital is onsite and was constructed in 1974. SFZ's Preventative Medicine program conducts Annual and Comprehensive wellness evaluations on the animals. These include physical examination, blood panel and other tests as necessary. Periodic Care such as dental checkups and Acute & Emergency Care are performed. Geriatric Care and Neonatal Care is given to the oldest and youngest animal's onsite. For some conditions it is necessary to consult with outside physicians and specialists both veterinary and human to treat the animals. SFZ is most proud of its Medical Behavior Training program which allows for procedures such as cardiac ultrasound, monitoring during pregnancy and blood being drawn from the big cat's tails. This animal training allows such procedures being done without the use of anesthesia and stress upon the animals. SFZ also performs offsite care of the bison in Golden Gate Park, the animals at the Randall Museum and the swans at the Legion of Honor. The medical team is part of the Conservation Medicine program

throughout the world including in California the Western Pond turtles and Yellow-legged frogs health care; Andean Cat health care and advice in Argentina; Ape Action Africa program in Cameroon Orphan gorilla & chimp sanctuary with supplies and advice and the Makira Bushmeat Initiative in Madagascar by improving chicken health which improves human nutrition and decreases the bushmeat hunting of lemur.

Committee Advisor Stephens asked what treatment is being given to the polar bear for the heart failure. Dr. Crawford stated that she is on medication for the condition. SFZ board member Reading questioned what kinds of animals are treated at the Randall Museum. Crawford responded they are mostly rehabilitated animals such as raptors, raccoon, tortoise, snake and newts. The Zoo staff makes monthly trips to the museum as well as emergency calls as requested. Commission Wei asked how the baby giraffe was doing. Crawford stated he is thriving under the care of his mother. Wei also asked what is one when an animal dies such as the giraffe twin. Crawford state that a full necropsy is performed thus allowing continued learning on conditions present. Committee Advisor Spinelli stated his long history with SFZ and wants to commend the staff on its work and stated that having the new hospital was a great achievement. Member of Public Tony Colonese, retired bear keeper at SFZ, also wanted to compliment Dr. Crawford and his staff for their dedication and care of the animals. He also stated that the new hospital is far superior to the primitive conditions which existed when he first was employed at the Zoo.

7. **Announcements** (Information only)
None
8. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)
Chair McDonnell reported that the first meeting was held regarding the new Security Alert System.
9. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
None
10. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
11. **Public Comments:**
Member of Public Colonese stated his concern for the need of on staff nighttime care for the animals.
12. **Adjournment 2:48pm**
Meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.